



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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RWANDAN SENTENCED ON IMMIGRATION FRAUD CHARGES

Felony conviction renders him deportable

CHICAGO—A Rwandan man was sentenced yesterday to 51 months in prison for immigration fraud and assault of a federal officer, following an extensive investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Jean-Marie Vianney Mudahinyuka, 44, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge James F. Holderman on three counts of immigration fraud for lying about his true identity to gain entry to the U.S. as a refugee, and on one count of assaulting a federal officer at the time of his arrest.

Mudahinyuka, using the alias Thierry Rugamba, unlawfully gained entry to the U.S. as a refugee by concealing his true identity to immigration officers and falsely claiming under oath that he was a victim and refugee of the 1994 Rwandan genocide that claimed the lives of an estimated 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus during a three-month period.

Mudahinyuka entered the U.S. as a refugee in 2000 using the name “Rugamba.” He was working at an African food market in Bolingbrook, Ill., where at least one witness recognized him as someone known by a different name in Rwanda.

When ICE agents came to arrest Mudahinyuka last May in his Romeoville home he was found in an upstairs bedroom. As the agents entered the bedroom, Mudahinyuka grabbed the barrel of a shotgun held by one of the agents and struck the agent across the head with it, attempting to wrest it from him. Mudahinyuka broke the finger of another agent during the course of the struggle before being subdued and placed under arrest.

As a result of ICE’s investigation, Mudahinyuka’s refugee status was rescinded and ICE will seek to deport him as an aggravated felon upon completion of his prison sentence.

In addition, the Rwandan government has issued a warrant for Mudahinyuka's arrest on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity.

“We will use all our available resources to go after those who are accused of committing atrocities,” said Special Agent-in-Charge Elissa Brown, who leads ICE Chicago investigations. “Those who come to the United States under false pretenses will be discovered and prosecuted.”

This enforcement action is part of ICE's continuing commitment to deny safe haven in the U.S. to human rights violators and to restore integrity to America's immigration system by identifying, investigating, prosecuting and removing these individuals from the country — and by preventing them from entering the country. ICE will not allow those who have engaged in persecuting others to receive legal immigration status in America.

ICE is making great strides to bring human rights abusers in the United States to justice. ICE attorneys are currently tracking and litigating more than 900 cases involving human rights violators from more than 60 countries in immigration courts nationwide.

ICE encourages the public to come forward with any information they may have regarding human rights abusers residing in the United States. A special electronic mailbox has been created in Chicago where members of the public can report suspected war criminals hiding within the United States. That email address is: nshchicago@dhs.gov. Nationwide, anonymous tips may be reported at (866) DHS-2ICE (866-347-2423).

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.